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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov.USSR TALC INDUSTRY NEEDS DEVELOPMENT

Talc is a valuable mineral which serves as a raw material for a number of industries, including production of rubber, cables, chemical products, paper, medicinal preparations, and fine ceramic products. Because of its high electric insulating qualities, talc has been used successfully in the radio industry and in electroceramics. Talc-magnesite brick is used in the cement industry as a refractory for lining rotary furnaces.

Despite the large geological reserves of talc in the Soviet Union (especially in the Urals, Siberia, and the Caucasus), it is mined and processed only by three small enterprises. Two of them, the Miass Talc Combine and the Shabrovskiy Talc Combine in the Urals, are subordinated to the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR, and the South-Osetial Talc Factory operates under the Ministry of Local Industry Georgian SSR.

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, the capacity of talc enterprises of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry was increased four and a half times. However, the growing demands for this product are still not being satisfied. The quality of the talc produced has also not been entirely satisfactory. The technological method used in existing enterprises do not guarantee the complete extraction of iron compounds from the talc, and this is detrimental to the quality of cables and other products involving the use of talc.

Until now, the importance of the talc industry has not been fully recognized by "Glavnemetrud" (Main Administration of Nonmetallic Minerals Industry) and other organizations of the ministry, and little attention has been given to this branch of industry. Geological prospecting for new industrial deposits in the existing quarries, as well as in new areas, has been extremely slow. This has hampered the further development of the Miass Combine, which is the main supplier of talc. Operation of the South-Osetial factory has also been delayed because of the lack of newly prospected reserves of high-quality talc.

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Scientific organizations have been slow in assisting this branch of industry. During the past 10 years, no research work has been done to improve the technological methods of talc processing and to find ways of producing high-grade types of talc. There are no specialized scientific-research institutes of the nonmetallic minerals industry.

The reconstruction of existing talc enterprises and construction of new ones is unbelievably slow. "Gipronemetrud" (State Institute for Planning Enterprises of the Nonmetallic Minerals Industry) did not submit the necessary blueprints and construction plans for a new mill as scheduled. As a result, reconstruction of the Shabrovskiy Combine is being delayed.

The 1951 production plan for the two existing enterprises of "Glavnemetrud" has been considerably increased. However, before increasing production, it is necessary to create the proper material and technical base; this has not yet been done. In November 1950, an additional mill was to be installed at the Shabrovskiy Combine. However, the Katav-Ivanovsk, Pashiya, and Kiev plants of "Soyuzstromzapchast" Trust (All-Union Trust for Construction Materials and Spare Parts) disregarded the ministry's order and delivered the necessary spare parts for this mill only by the end of February 1951.

Until now, the only raw material source for the Miass Combine is the Koz'modem'yansk Mine. Mechanization of mining has been very slow.

The talc industry has no trained workers or specialized mining engineers and technicians. The Miass Combine, for example, has only one mining engineer and no engineers specialized in talc concentration.

The demand for high-quality talc is steadily growing. It is time to give this branch of production its proper place in Soviet industry.

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